

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A word identification method comprising:  
a character recognition processing step of  
performing recognition processing of an input character  
5 string that corresponds to a word to be recognized  
by each character, thereby obtaining the character  
recognition result;

a probability calculation step of obtaining  
a probability at which characteristics obtained as  
10 the character recognition result are generated by said  
character recognition processing by conditioning  
characters of words contained in a word dictionary  
that stores in advance a candidate of the word to be  
recognized;

15 a first computation step of performing a  
predetermined computation between a probability  
obtained by this probability calculation step and the  
characteristics obtained as the character recognition  
result by said character recognition processing step;

20 a second computation step of performing a prede-  
termined second computation between the computation  
results obtained by said first computation relevant to  
the characteristics of the words contained in said word  
dictionary; and

25 a word recognition processing step of obtaining  
the recognition result of said word based on the second  
computation result by this second computation step.

2. A word recognition method according to claim 1, wherein said character recognition processing step consists of the steps of: delimiting an input character string that corresponds to the word to be  
5 recognized by each character; extracting characteristics of character spacing by this character delimiting; and performing recognition processing of each character obtained by said character delimiting, wherein said probability calculation step is used to obtain a  
10 probability generated based on the characteristics obtained as the result of character recognition by conditioning the characteristics of characters and character spacing of the words contained in a word dictionary that stores in advance candidates of the  
15 characteristics of character spacing in words to be recognized.

3. A word recognition method according to claim 1, wherein information on characters and non-characters is included in the characters of the  
20 words contained in said word dictionary.

4. A word recognition method according to claim 3, wherein a probability at which a word containing information on said non-characters is generated is set based on a probability at which a word  
25 that does not contain non-character information is generated.

5. A word recognition method comprising:

a delimiting step of delimiting an input character string that corresponds to a word to be recognized by each character;

5 a step of obtaining plural kinds of delimiting results considering whether character spacing is provided or not by character delimiting caused by this delimiting step;

10 a character recognition processing step of performing recognition processing for each character as all the delimiting results obtained by this step;

15 a probability calculation step of obtaining a probability at which characteristics obtained as the result of character recognition are generated by said character recognition step by computing the characters of the words contained in the word dictionary that stores in advance candidates of words to be recognized;

20 a first computation step of performing a predetermined first computation between a probability obtained by this probability computation step and a probability at which characteristics obtained as the result of character recognition are generated by said character recognition processing step;

25 a second computation step of performing a predetermined computation between computation results obtained by said first computation relevant to each of the characters of the words contained in said word dictionary; and

a word recognition processing step of obtaining the recognition result of said word based on the result of the second calculation caused by this second computation step.

5           6. A word recognition method according to claim 5, wherein said character recognition step consists of the steps of: obtaining plural kinds of delimiting results considering whether character spacing is provided or not by character delimiting  
10 caused by said character delimiting step; extracting characteristics of character spacing relevant to all the delimiting results obtained by this step; and performing recognition processing of each character as all of the said obtained delimiting results, wherein  
15 said probability calculation step is used to obtain a probability at which characteristics obtained as the result of character recognition are generated by conditioning characteristics of the characters and character spacing of words contained in the word  
20 dictionary that stores in advance candidates of the characteristics of character spacing in words to be recognized.

          7. A computer readable storage medium that stores a word recognition program for performing word  
25 recognition processing in a computer, wherein said word recognition program contains:

a character recognition processing step of

performing recognition processing of an input character string that corresponds to a word to be recognized by each character;

5 a probability calculation step of obtaining  
a probability at which characteristics obtained as  
the character recognition result are generated by  
said character recognition processing by conditioning  
characters of words contained in a word dictionary  
that stores in advance a candidate of the word to be  
10 recognized;

a first computation step of performing a  
predetermined computation between a probability  
obtained by this probability calculation step and the  
characteristics obtained as the character recognition  
15 result by said character recognition processing step;

a second computation step of performing a prede-  
termined second computation between the computation  
results obtained by said first computation relevant to  
the characteristics of the words contained in said word  
20 dictionary; and

a word recognition processing step of obtaining  
the recognition result of said word based on the second  
computation result by this second computation step.

8. A storage medium that stores a word  
25 recognition program according to claim 7, wherein said  
character recognition processing step consists of the  
steps of: delimiting an input character string that

corresponds to the word to be recognized by each character; extracting characteristics of character spacing by this character delimiting; and performing recognition processing of each character obtained by  
5 said character delimiting, wherein said probability calculation step is used to obtain a probability generated based on the characteristics obtained as the result of character recognition by conditioning the characteristics of characters and character spacing of  
10 the words contained in a word dictionary that stores in advance candidates of the characteristics of character spacing in words to be recognized.

9. A storage medium that stores a word recognition program according to claim 7, wherein said  
15 character recognition processing step consists of the steps of: delimiting an input character string that corresponds to a word to be recognized by each character; extracting characteristics of character spacing by this character delimiting; and performing  
20 recognition processing of each character obtained by said character delimiting.

10. A storage medium that stores a word recognition program according to claim 8, wherein said step  
25 of extracting characteristics of character spacing consists of the steps of: obtaining plural kinds of delimiting results considering whether character spacing is provided or not by character delimiting

caused by said character delimiting step; and  
extracting characteristics of character spacing  
relevant to all of the delimiting results obtained by  
this step.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of  
extracting characteristics of character spacing  
comprises the step of extracting the character  
spacing characteristics of the character spacing  
relevant to all of the delimiting results obtained  
by this step.